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DESCRIPTION
OF THE
FREEDOM BOX,
Voted by the
CITY OF LONDON,
TO THE
Hon. AUGUSTUS KEPPEL,
Admiral of the Blue.
To which is prefixed
A Succinct Account of His PUBLIC SERVICES.



L O N D O N:
Printed for the Artist, Wth CHARRON, little Marlborough
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10. 6. to L. 2. 6.



TO

The Right Honourable

THE LORD MAYOR,

A L D E R M E N,

and

(COMMON COUNCIL)

(of the)

City of London.

*This production is with the greatest
respect inscribed by -*

Their most Obedient

Little, Marlborough Street,

November 1779.

and much Obliged

Humble Servant

W^m Charron.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE Artift thinks himself highly honoured by, and is much obliged to the Committee who appointed him to execute the Box presented with the Freedom of the City of London to Admiral Keppel, and hopes he has not failed in the execution of it, having exerted his utmost abilities. Should his endeavours prove successful, by meriting their approbation, he flatters himself that the performance will intitle him to some small share of applause, which has been his highest ambition to deserve.

THE elegant designs of that eminent Sculptor Mr. Bacon, compose the sides of the Box ; and the vignette in the title page is by the same ingenious Master ; it was at first intended for the top, ^{as} but the Artift's was adopted ; yet his having great merit, we present it to the Public as an additional ornament to the work. The prints are engraved the same size as the Box.

THE designs being emblematical, it was thought necessary to give an explanation of them, the better

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to

to comprehend the precise meaning of the Artist ; and it is presumed the designs themselves are sufficiently curious to apologize for their appearing in print : at the same time they serve to shew the taste and judgment of the Committee, in their choice of subjects on this public occasion.

THE action of Admiral Keppel with the French Fleet, on the 27th of July, forming but a small part of his Public Services, a Succinct Account of them is prefixed to this Description of the Freedom Box, for reasons that will appear obvious, and it is hoped will not be altogether unpleasing to the Reader.

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L I S T

O F

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A
SUCCINCT ACCOUNT
OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
ADMIRAL KEPPEL.

THE Public being already so fully informed of all the particulars relating to the trial, and honourable acquittal of Admiral Keppel, it is no way necessary to take up the Reader's time with a repetition of those circumstances; however, it may not be improper to give a short view of his conduct, so far as relates to his Public Services.

THE Honourable Augustus Keppel is the second Son of William Anne, second Earl of Albemarle, by Lady Anne, Daughter of Charles Lennox, first Duke of Richmond: his Grand-father, Arnold Joest Van Keppel, the first Earl of Albemarle, was descended from Wolsted Van Keppel, one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Guelderland, whose

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ancestors

ancestors appear to have been Knights of Jerusalem, so far back as the year 1101.

THIS account of the pedigree and descent of the Admiral is not here set forth with any view of claiming respect to his character from the dignity and birth of his ancestors; we rest his title to the veneration and applause of his fellow-citizens on a much nobler foundation, that of personal merit.

FROM the rank and example of his illustrious family, he derived every advantage that could tend to the improvement of his own natural endowments.

HE very early began his sea-life in the Royal Navy, not having attained the age of eleven years when he left Westminster School, in 1735-6, and was entered on board the Oxford of 50 guns, Captain Swale, upon a voyage to the Coast of Guinea. On that ship's return to England, in the year following, he went on board the Gloucester, Commodore Clinton, to the Mediterranean.

AT midsummer 1740, he was entered a midshipman on board the Centurion, under Commodore, afterwards Lord, Anson; and served under him during the whole of that memorable

morable expedition to the South Seas; and was employed, under the officers entrusted with the execution of them, on every detached service undertaken during the course of the voyage. After the capture of the Galleon, called the Cabadonga, off the entrance of the Philippine Islands, on the arrangement of officers which took place on that event, the Commodore was pleased to appoint him third Lieutenant of the Centurion.

IN June 1744, Mr. Keppel returned with Lord Anson in the Centurion from the expedition round the world. His stay on shore after this long voyage was for a very short time, for, at his own request to be immediately employed again at sea, he was appointed Lieutenant of the Dreadnought, then commanded by Captain, afterwards Admiral, Boscawen; and after serving some time under that able, active, and intelligent officer, the same year he was, by the Earl of Winchelsea, who then presided at the head of the Admiralty, appointed Commander of the Wolf sloop of war; and towards the close of the year had the command given him of the Greyhound of 20 guns, which put him on the rank of a Captain in the Royal Navy. He afterwards was appointed, successively, to the commands of the Sapphire of 40 guns, the Maidstone of 50, and the Anson of 60. During the time he commanded the Maidstone,

stone, he was unfortunately cast away on the Island of Noirmotier on the S. W. coast of France, near the entrance of Nantz River, at the time he was in pursuit of many large ships of the enemy.

IN 1749, he was appointed as Commodore to the command of the squadron in the Mediterranean, and intrusted with the negociations with the several States of Barbary, particularly a very important one with the State of Algiers, which he terminated very happily.

IN 1754, he was appointed a Commodore on board the Centurion, with a captain under him, and to the chief command of the King's ships on the coast of North America, and ordered upon a joint service with Major-General Braddock to Virginia, to oppose the incroachments of the French on our American Settlements.

IN 1755, Admiral Boscawen coming out with a strong squadron to take the command of the naval force on the coast of North America, Mr. Keppel returned to England; and soon after his arrival, was appointed Captain of the Swiftsure of 70 guns; and in the beginning of 1756, Captain of the Torbay of 74 guns.

IN

IN 1758, when the expedition against the Island of Goree on the coast of Africa was resolved upon, that great, wise, and active minister, Mr. Pitt, made choice of Mr. Keppel for this important service. He proceeded in the Torbay, on board which ship he hoisted his broad pendant, with a captain appointed under him. The force destined for this service was four line of battle ships, a 50 gun ship, one of 40 guns, and smaller vessels, and two bomb-vessels, with a small body of land forces. Several unavoidable delays, mixed with some distress, prevented the arrival of the squadron in the Bay of Goree till the 27th of December; on the following morning, the attack was made by the King's ships, and the forts and garrison were obliged to surrender at discretion.

AFTER having settled the new garrison, visited Senegal, and established the dominion of Great Britain on that coast, he sailed for England, and arrived at Spithead the 1st of March, 1759. He then resumed the command of the Torbay as a private Captain, and on the memorable 20th of November, under the orders of the immortal Sir Edward Hawke, the Torbay in the order of battle, being one of the seconds to the Royal George, the Admiral's ship, Captain Keppel availed himself of the several opportunities that presented of signalizing himself on that day; not the least striking instance

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of

of which was the *Thesée*, a French ship of 74 guns, sinking at the time she was singly opposed in fight with the *Torbay*. Sir Edward Hawke's satisfaction with Mr. Keppel's conduct on that day, could not have been more distinctly marked, than a few days after the battle, as soon as the weather permitted, his detaching him with nine sail of the line, a 50 gun ship, and two frigates, under his command, to endeavour to cut off the retreat of the enemy into their ports. This preference was given to Mr. Keppel although there was in the fleet, Sir Charles Hardy, Vice-Admiral, and second in command, and four or five other senior officers to him. This squadron proceeded to the the *Charante*, the entrance of Rochfort, but unfortunately about thirty hours too late; M. de Beaufremont with his division having secured themselves within the port of Rochfort. Nothing being to be effected against the enemy's ships in the security they were in, Mr. Keppel returned to Quiberon, and had the satisfaction of receiving his Admiral's fullest approbation of his conduct. And when Sir Edward Hawke returned to England, he thought proper to hoist his flag on board the *Torbay*, and was landed at Plymouth from that ship in January, 1760.

At Plymouth, Captain Keppel exchanged the command of of the *Torbay* for that of the *Valiant*, likewise of 74 guns,

guns, but considered of greater force, as well from her construction, as her carrying a higher weight of metal.

THE King having at this time thought proper to make an establishment of officers to the corps of Marines, to be given to naval officers of distinguished merit; the courage, activity and zeal Mr. Keppel had shewn in the service of his country was not overlooked by his Sovereign, who honoured him with the command of the Plymouth division of Marines. After this, the Commodore had another opportunity of exerting those talents, and that bravery which had merited so just a reward.

WHEN it was found expedient to attempt the conquest of Belle-Isle, which, on account of its strength and situation, is the key of the whole Gallic western coast, and might afterwards facilitate other attempts upon that part of the enemy's shore: a squadron of eleven line of battle ships, some frigates, fire-ships and bombs were put under his command, together with one hundred transports, having on board 9,000 troops, with a proportionate train of artillery, under the command of Major-General Hodgson.

THE bravery and conduct of the French governor, and the
indefatigable

indefatigable zeal of the garrison, together with the strength of the fortifications, and the dangerous situations of the coast, were obstacles that retarded the success of the enterprise; but such perseverance, judgment, and valour were opposed to them by the Commodore, and the commander of the troops, that the governor on the 7th of June, to save the rest of his valiant garrison, was forced to capitulate.

AFTER the surrender of Belle-Isle, the opinion and confidence placed in Mr. Keppel by that great Minister, Mr. Pitt, was shewn in a very eminent degree, his command was increased to thirty ships of the line of battle; and during that year every operation from Ushant to Cape Finisterre was left to his direction.

UPON the junction of the Spaniards with the French, in 1762, the British Minister sent Admiral Pocock against the Havannah. The three Keppels were destined to a share of the laurels: the eldest brother, Lord of Albemarle, had the command of the land forces: and the landing of the troops was effected, without loss, under cover of that division of the fleet which Commodore Keppel directed. The third brother, being then Major-General, commanded the attack of the Moro Castle, the reduction of which, on the 30th of July, as well as
that

that of the Havannah, on August the 13th, crowned the whole enterprize with success.

IMMEDIATELY after the surrender of the Havannah, he was sent to take upon him the chief command on the Jamaica station: in his way to that Island he had the good fortune to take two French frigates, with several sail of merchant ships under their convoy. In the promotion of Admirals that took place in 1762, the King was pleased to order him to be included.

UNDER this promotion, his cruizes were attended with the same success, for he took several rich Spanish ships at the latter end of 1762, and in January and February of the ensuing year, which gave our gallant Admiral opportunities of acquiring an opulent fortune.

IT now fell to the part of Admiral Keppel to serve his country in a more peaceable line; and he returned to the situation of a British Senator, in which he had before served, being elected Member of Parliament for Chichester in 1755, in the room of his brother, who was called up to the House of Lords in 1754, on the demise of his father; and for Windfor in 1761.

IN 1765, under the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, he was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and continued in that office till 1766. His Majesty out of regard for his great and public services, and with a view more to attach him to his royal person, appointed him one of the Grooms of his Bed-chamber.

THE same borough of Windsor returned him their member in the two following parliaments; in which quality of a British Senator, he always shewed a noble and manly independence, joined to uncommon moderation.

IN 1778, the open assistance given by France to our revolted Colonies of America, and the hostile preparations carried on by that nation, contrary to the faith of treaties, against Great Britain, determined Administration to send a fleet of observation to watch the motions of the enemy.

ADMIRAL KEPPEL, from his known abilities, was appointed to this important command. Having sailed from St. Helens with twenty ships of the line, he fell in with the Pallas and Licorne frigates, which, upon their refusing to come under his stern, and on account of the insolent and unjustifiable conduct of the commander of the latter, were both detained. The
intelligence

intelligence he received from papers found on board these ships, was sufficient to shew him that the fleet under his command was inadequate to the accomplishments of the service he was upon.

THE French had thirty-two sail of the line in Brest harbour; he therefore prudently returned to Portsmouth, the 27th of June. Having obtained a reinforcement, he sailed again on July the 9th, and was joined at Plymouth, and off the Lizard, by other ships, which completed the number of thirty sail of line of battle ships under his command. The French fleet of thirty-two sail of the line had sailed the 8th.

ON the 23d of the same month, he came in sight of the French fleet; and finding them backward to come to a decisive action, he resolved to give chase, and bring them to battle upon any terms; and on the 27th the engagement began, the fleets on different tacks.

THE ships disabled in their masts and rigging, which occasioned some separation, prevented an immediate pursuit, and the Vice-Admiral of the Blue neglecting to obey the signal for renewing the attack, the enemy availed themselves of the opportunity,

portunity, and favoured by night, made off and took shelter in their own port. The Admiral then returned to Plymouth to refit.

AFTER a short time he sailed again, and continued at sea for some time; the French always carefully avoiding the station he kept. Some time after his return he found, to his great surprise, that the Vice-Admiral of the Blue, whose disobedience was overlooked, for the sake of preserving unanimity in the service, charged him with Misconduct, and Neglect of Duty on the 27th and 28th of July.

✓ THE exhibited charges were hastily accepted, and a trial immediately ordered to be held at Portsmouth, on board the Britannia, on January 7th, 1779; which (by an act of parliament for that purpose) was removed to the house of the Governor of his Majesty's garrison at Portsmouth.

THE Court-martial under Sir Thomas Pye, Admiral of the White, as President, having proceeded on the trial, after a tedious examination of a great number of witnesses, our Admiral, on the 30th of January, made his defence: and on the 11th of February the Court pronounced sentence; by which
he

he was honourably acquitted, and the charge declared to be malicious and ill-founded.

THE general satisfaction expressed by the Public on the honourable acquittal of the Admiral, is fresh in the memory of every one, and is the strongest confirmation that the opinions of the people at large perfectly coincided with the sentence and declaration of the respectable characters who presided at the trial, as well as those who were witnesses on the occasion. The circumstantial and full evidence of so many gallant and experienced officers, who, from their station and merit, were best qualified to judge of the accused Admiral's conduct, are testimonies that must for ever remain the strongest refutation of every insidious suggestion of malice and envy.

HE had the honour of receiving the congratulations of both Houses of Parliament on the triumph of his innocence, and thanks for his prudent conduct in that expedition, upon which the charges against him had been so maliciously founded.

THE City of London has been always conspicuous in taking the lead, and rewarding the merits of those who have distinguished themselves in the service of their country. Actuated
by

by such liberal sentiments, the Court of Aldermen and Common Council, by their unanimous resolution, on the 12th of February, 1779, ordered the thanks of their Court to be given to Admiral Keppel; it was likewise resolved to present him with the Freedom of the City in a Box of Heart of Oak, richly ornamented with gold, and various emblematical representations, as a testimony of their approbation of his Public Services.

A D E-



THE

Virtue when wounded, acquires fresh vigour.
 Conscious of nothing which should pale his cheeks.



W. Charron exc.

Plunge him in ocean, he will rise to day.

London: Published at the Act direct. 11 De

es fresh vigour.
ould pale his cheek.

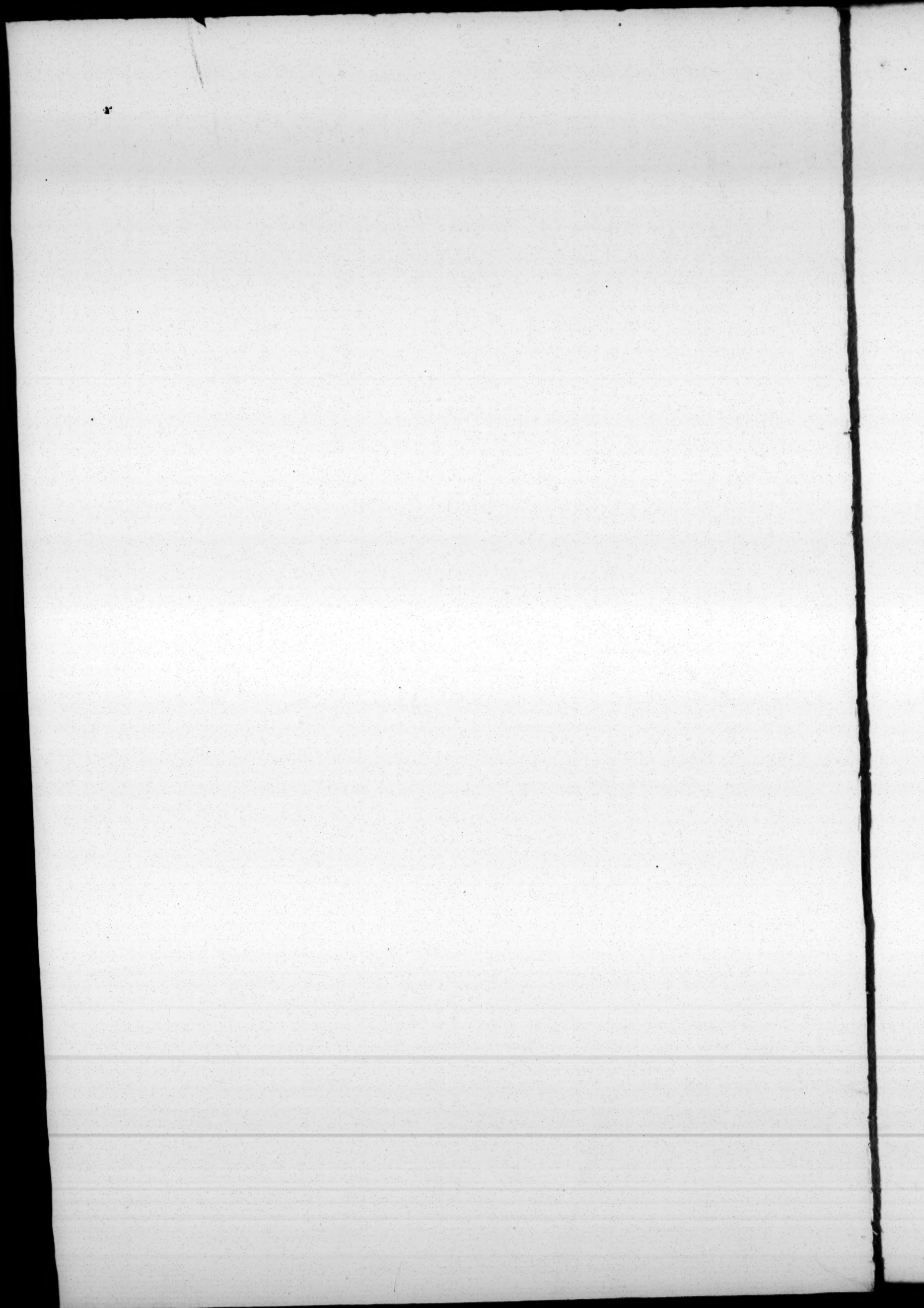
TOP.



J. Collyer sc

he will rise to day.

Act directr. 11 Decr 1779.



A
D E S C R I P T I O N

OF THE

DESIGNS ON THE BOX:

T H E T O P.

THE whole Box is made of Heart of Oak, covered with rich gold mosaic work, through the openings of which the oak is seen; the Heart of Oak being an emblem of the British Navy, and her gallant Sons. On the oval, in the centre of the Box is, painted in enamel, a female figure seated, and crowned with the pinnacles of a city wall, leaning on a shield, bearing the arms of the City of London; she holds in her left hand a sceptre, and with her right is crowning the bust of Admiral Keppel. This figure, representing the City of London, has at her feet emblems of liberty, commerce, and riches, &c. acquired by the navigation of the River Thames, as shewn by a river-god on the fore ground, on whose right hand is an antique rudder, and on his left a water urn: the

D

back

back ground has a view of St. Paul's. The upper part of the border of this oval has the following motto taken from Horace, in gold letters, on a blue transparent enamelled ground :

“ Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa.”

Conscious of nothing which should pale his cheek.

Conscious to no self-reproach, and having no fault to turn pale with *.

On the lower part of the border is this motto :

“ Merces profundo, pulchrior evenit.”

Plunge him in ocean, he will rise to day.

Dearly earned rewards are the sweetest.

meaning, that reward the Admiral did not obtain without being brought to the very brink of losing it, together with his life and honour.

OVER these mottos, in a ribbon, is a third, expressive of the dangerous effects of the charges exhibited against the Admiral.

* The Editor has given a free as well as a literal translation of the mottos, some of his friends preferring one and some the other.

“ Virescit

“ Virescit vulnere Virtus.”

Virtue derives fresh vigour from a wound.

Virtue when wounded acquires fresh vigour.

THE medallion, on the right side of the oval, represents *Naval Justice*, holding a trident in her right hand, and in her left a balance, treading on Envy, and surrounded by martial trophies, expressive of that justice which governed the sentence of the Court-martial. The name of *Admiral Pye*, the President, is on the top; as also *Admirals Montague, Buckle, Arbuthnot, and Roddam*; *Captains Milbank, Drake, Penny, Bennet, Botelear, Moutray, Duncan, and Cranston*, who composed the Court-martial, are engraved in letters of gold on the blue enamelled border surrounding the medallion.

THE medallion on the left hand represents *Naval Victory* distributing crowns, surrounded by naval trophies. The name of *Sir Robert Harland* is on the top; and in the circle of the medallion the names of the other respectable witnesses, engraved in letters of gold, viz. *Campbell, Allen, More, Marshall, Faulkner, Laforey, Bradley, Boyle, Clement, Macbride, Gower, Jervis, Kingmill, Douglas, Cosby, Nott, Stewart, Lumley, Rogers, Arnold, Hamilton, and Prescott*.

THE

THE rim, or shutting part, of the Box, is ornamented alternately with *scollop shells* and *anchors*; the scollop shell being part of the coat of arms of the Keppel family.

THE FRONT.

ON the left medallion, *Truth* is represented sitting with a cube in her hand, denoting eternal stability, having a radiant star on her forehead, shewing its brilliant and illuminating effects on the human mind: she is naked, because Truth requires no dress, or ornaments.

SCRUTINY is dressed in an antique style, holding a sieve under her left arm, as a proper emblem of separating truth from falsehood; with her right hand she lifts up a mantle, which discovers Truth; and has the following motto from Virgil;

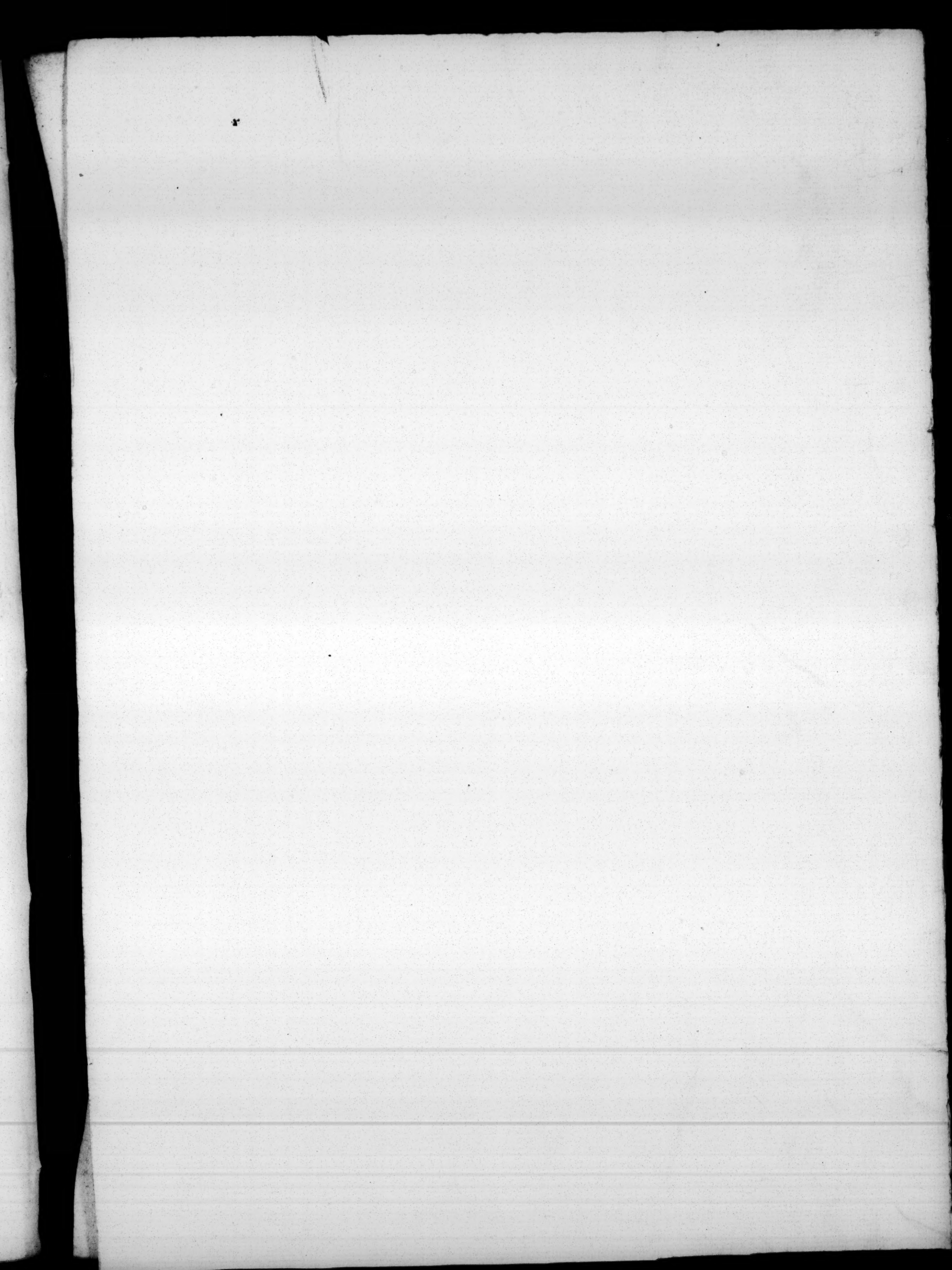
“ Animum veris implet.”

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

Scrutiny fills the mind with truth, rejecting all prejudices and falsehoods.

THE right-hand medallion represents *Military Virtue*, armed with a spear and sword. The star on his breast shews the radiance and conspicuous eminence of great military actions:

one



THE F



W. Charron del.

She fills the mind with nothing but the truth.

London: Published by

THE FRONT.



e truth .

Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live .

J. Collyer sc.

THE ENDS.



H. Chavron del.

O friendly night . | O for the day, to light me on to fame .

London: Published as the Act directs, 11 Dec.

ENDS.



Thy valour heap'd our wharfs with wealth.

J. Collier sc.

Act direct, n Dec^r 1779 -



one leg is placed upon a globe which it fixes, to shew, that virtue even prescribes laws to the fickleness of chance and fortune.

HONOUR here is represented in a more modern dress, with a collar of knighthood, putting the herald's cap of honour on the head of Virtue.

THE motto expresses the permanency of honours thus conferred on Virtue :

“ Semper honos, nomenque TUUM, laudesque manebunt.”

Thine honour, name, and praise shall ever live.

Thine is the praise, the honour and the glory.

THE ENDS.

ON the right end of the Box, the Triton of Great Britain is represented in a warlike posture ; the shield with the British arms worn by the young Triton, points out the vigorous strength of the British naval force. The French Triton, with dishevelled hair, in a dejected attitude, flies before his conquerors, drops the point of his sword, and lowers even his defending buckler. Night, crowned with soporific poppies, spreads her sable mantle, strewed with numerous stars, between the combatants, under the cover of which the French Triton

escapes. The British Triton wishes only for the return of day to finish his conquest, expressed by the motto :

“ Phosphore redde diem.”

Oh for the day to light me on to fame!

O morning star bring back the day!

The other part of the motto expresses the favourable deceit of the night, under which the French fleet evaded her total ruin;

“ Fraude noctis.”

Oh friendly night!

Under cover of night!

ON the left end of the Box, the British Triton, in a defying warlike posture, alludes to the prudent measure adopted and executed by the naval commanders, vigorously protecting the British commerce, whose wealth Mercury shews in his purse. A numerous fleet of merchant ships are seen at a distance entering into their destined ports: to which this motto alludes:

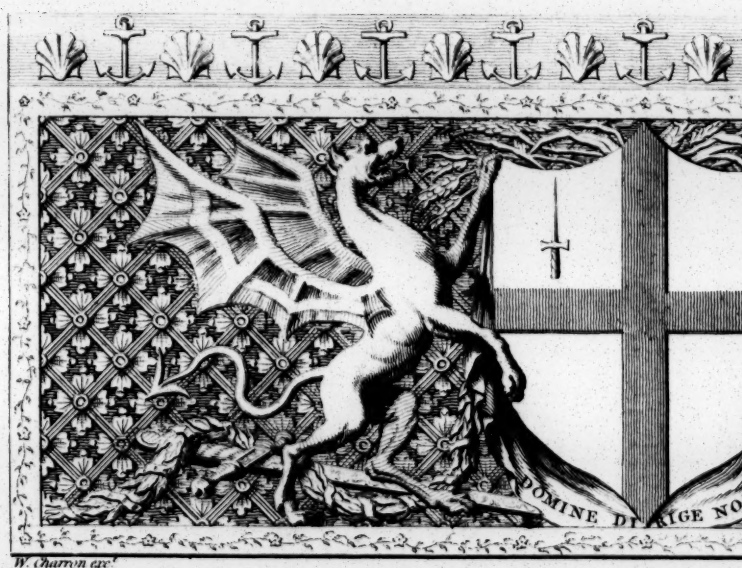
“ Immensæ ruperunt horrea messes.”

Thy valour heaped our wharfs with wealth.

Immense crops filled their storehouses; their granaries burst
with plenty, For

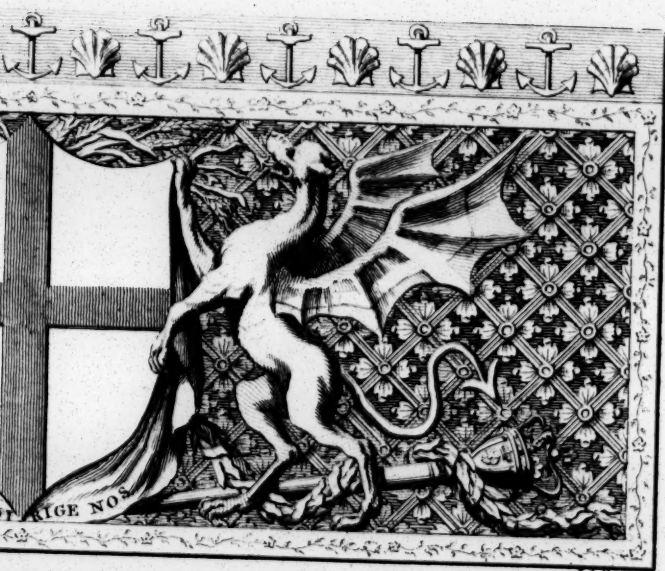


THE BACK



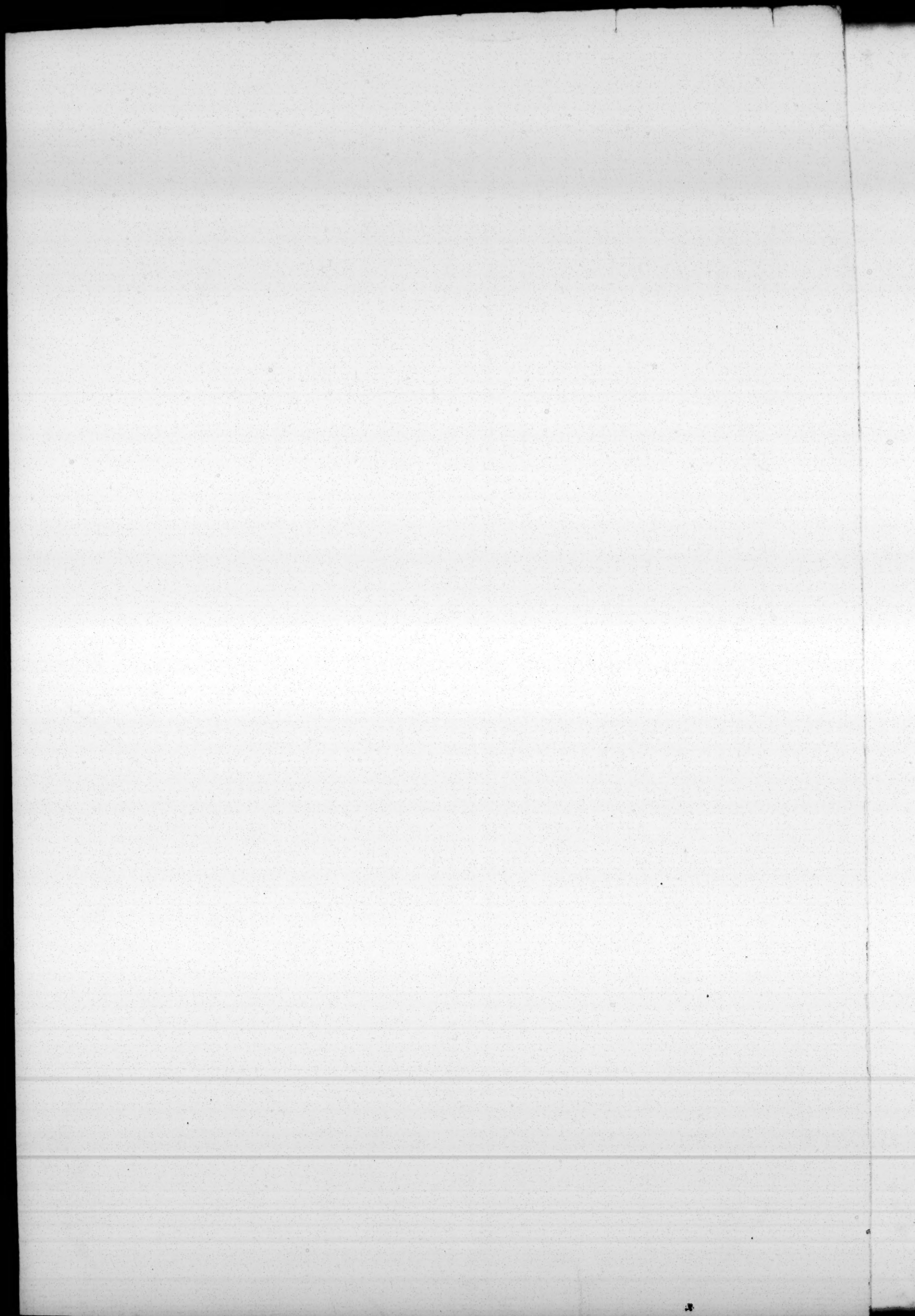
London: Publish'd as the Act directs. 1791.

E BACK.



J. Collyer sc.

de Act directs, 15 Oct. 1779.



For thus the wealth of both the Indies filled the British store-houses.

THE BACK.

ON the back of the Box are the arms of the city of London, supporters and regalia: the gold plate lining the inside of the top contains the Resolution of the Common Council of the City of London *.

THE VIGNETTE.

ON the vignette is represented Admiral Keppel, attended by Neptune and Mars; on the right is a female figure resting on a shield, on which the City Arms are expressed, attended by Justice presenting to the Admiral the Freedom of the City of London.

* The medallions are all painted in enamel, on gold plates with gold borders and ribbons, on which the mottoes are all engraved in letters of gold, on a blue transparent enamelled ground. The gold chase mosaic work, through which the oak is seen, serves as a ground to the whole Box.

*A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of
London, on Friday the 12th of Feb. 1779.*

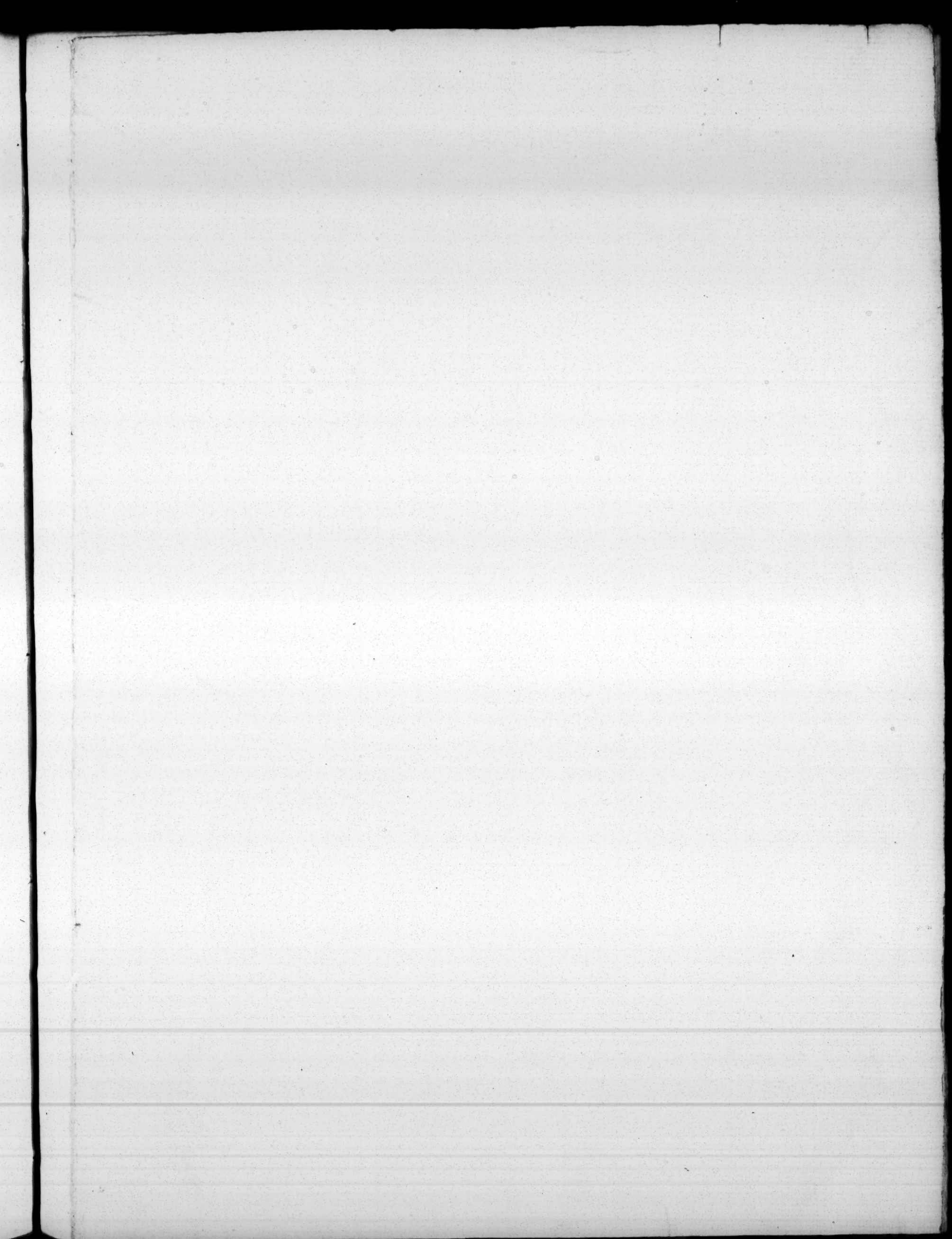
P L U M B E, MAYOR.

Resolved

UNANIMOUSLY, That the thanks of this Court be given to the honourable Augustus Keppel, Admiral of the Blue, for his long and faithful services to this country; for his ready acceptance, at the call of his Sovereign, of the important charge of Commander of the British fleet in the time of imminent danger; for the anxious attention that appears in every instance of his conduct to the safety of this country; for his judicious, able, and spirited behaviour on the twenty-seventh of July last, in his attack on the French Fleet, for his glorious and gallant efforts to renew the engagement in the afternoon of that day, efforts rendered unsuccessful through the want of obedience to his orders by the Vice-Admiral of the Blue; for the great protection given by him to our trade, to which entirely we are indebted for the safe arrival of the East and West-India fleets; for his animating conduct and example, happily followed by such signal exertion of spirit and intrepidity in the officers and seamen of the British fleet, as conveyed terror to our enemies, and obliged them to seek shelter in their own ports by an ignominious flight.

(Signed) R I X.

T H E E N D.



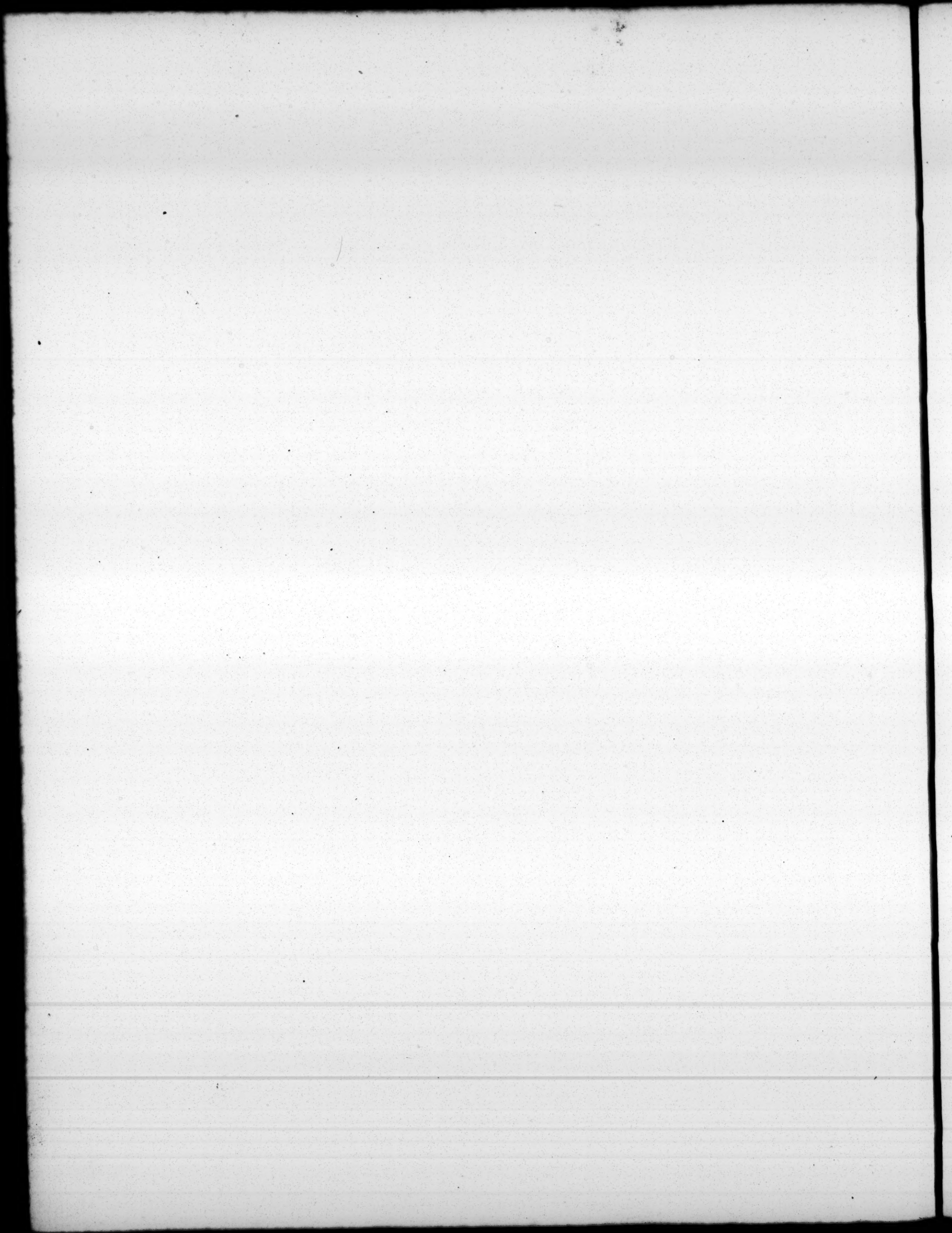
Number 22
A COMMON COUNCIL holden in the CHAMBER
on Friday the 12th day of February 1779

*this Court be given to the Honourable Augustus Keppel
Services to this Country; for his ready acceptance at the
of Commander of the **BRITISH FLEET** in time of imminen
in every instance of his Conduct to the Safety of this Co
viour on the Twenty-seventh of July last, in his attack on
gallant Efforts to renew the Engagement in the After
thro the want of Obedience to his Orders by the Vice
given by him to our Trade, to which entirely we are u
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of Spirit and Intrepidity in the Officers and Seamen
Enemies, and obliged them to seek Shelter in their ou*

the Mayor
CHAMBER of the Guildhall of the CITY of LONDON,

1779
Resolved unanimously that the Thanks of
us Keppel, Admiral of the Blue, for his long and faithful
service at the call of his SOVEREIGN of the important charge
of imminent Danger; for the anxious attention that appears
of this Country; for his judicious able and spirited be-
haviour in his attack on the FRENCH FLEET; for his glorious and
valiant conduct on the Afternoon of that Day; Efforts rendered unsuccessful
by the Vice Admiral of the Blue; for the great protection
we are indebted for the safe arrival of the East and
Indies and Example happily followed by such Signal Exertion
of the Seamen of the British Fleet, as conveyed Terror to our
enemies in their own Ports by an ignominious Flight.

Rix



TO the respectable names mentioned in the last paragraph (*page 17.*), should have been added the names of every witness called on Admiral Keppel's trial, both by his prosecutor and himself, as the substance of the whole evidence given (notwithstanding the invidious intentions of a very few), tended to the illustration of his character; in which light, we are called upon strongly to advert to the testimony of those officers of high honour, service, and experience, Sir *John Lockart Ross*, Sir *John Lindsay*, Captain *Edwards*, and Captain *Maitland*; and to the generous effusion of truth in that of Captain *Windsor*, and Lieutenant *Bertie*.

9 MA 61

